

Date: May 24, 2006

To: Chairman Randolph, and Commissioners Blair, Downey, Huguenin and Remy

From: Mark Krausse, Executive Director

#### A. PERSONNEL & BUDGET

The Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review's subcommittee on state administration approved the Commission's funding as provided for in the Governor's budget (\$700,000 augmentation, plus \$164,000 for SB 8 implementation). The Assembly Budget subcommittee approved the amounts in the Governor's budget, but also inserted the following supplemental report language:

***Workload Reporting.*** The Fair Political Practices Commission shall report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee by March 1, 2007 and annually thereafter on its workload. The report shall, at a minimum, include the number of cases opened and prosecuted, the number of legal advice letters requested and issued, the number and amount of fines assessed and waived, and the number and amount of any civil judgments.

This requirement would be satisfied by augmenting our annual report with the total number of cases sent to full investigation (i.e., "opened") and the number of advice letters requested and issued. Unfortunately, this language will leave our budget open for possible further modification by the budget conference committee. The conference committee will meet in early June to work out differences between the Senate and Assembly versions of the budget, and I will monitor the hearings and be available in the event the committee has questions regarding the Commission.

#### B. STAFF PROJECTS

The Legal Division's Counsel Emelyn Rodriguez and TAD Political Reform Consultant Adrienne Korchmaros will be participating in a one-day seminar in Rohnert Park on June 21, 2006, entitled, "What You Need to Know About Public Records, Open Meetings and Conflicts of Interest in California." The seminar is designed for attorneys, public officials and journalists and is put on by Lorman Education Services.

The Communications Office continues to answer a steady stream of media inquiries, and is drafting the June edition of the *Bulletin*.

## B. STAFF PROJECTS (Cont'd)

The Technical Assistance Division provided campaign outreach visits in Marin County (Barbara Smith and Lynda Cassady), SEI outreach for the Fairfield Suisun School District (Tara Stock and Lynda Cassady), and a campaign and SEI seminars in Riverside (Trish Mayer).

## C. CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CODES

Code Adoptions and Amendments: Pursuant to Government Code section 87300 and Commission regulation 18750.1, state and multi-county agencies seeking to adopt or substantively amend a conflict-of-interest code must submit the proposed code to the Commission for review and approval. The Technical Assistance Division has reviewed and, since the last agenda, I have approved the following conflict-of-interest codes:

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, State of California  
Gold Line Phase II Construction Authority  
Resources Agency, State of California

## D. FINDINGS OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Pursuant to regulation 18361, I have found evidence in the following cases sufficient to lead a person of ordinary caution and prudence to believe or entertain a strong suspicion that the following respondents committed or caused a violation of the Political Reform Act. **This finding of probable cause does not constitute a finding that a violation has actually occurred. The respondents are presumed to be innocent of any violation of the Act unless a violation is proved in a subsequent proceeding.**

**Maribel De La Torre, Families for Maribel De La Torre, Steven Veres and Oscar E. Jimenez, FPPC No. 02/408.** On May 15, 2006, probable cause was found to believe that: Respondent Maribel De La Torre, a candidate for and, subsequently, member of the San Fernando City Council, failed to file a statement of intention to be a candidate in violation of section 85200 of the Government Code (one count); Respondent Maribel De La Torre, Respondent Families for Maribel De La Torre, her controlled committee, and Respondent Steven Veres, a treasurer for her committee, failed to file semi-annual campaign statements in violation of section 84200(a) of the Government Code (five counts), failed to disclose required information regarding the sources of contributions of \$100 or more in violation of section 84211(f) of the Government Code (two counts), and failed to provide required information for persons to whom expenditures of \$100 or more were made, in violation of section 84211(k) (one count); and that Respondent De La Torre, Respondent Families for Maribel De La Torre, and Respondent Oscar E. Jimenez, a treasurer for her committee, failed to file semi-annual campaign statements in violation of section 84200(a) of the Government Code (one count).

## E. REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION OF COMMITTEE TERMINATION

There were none.